THE TRAVANCORE HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir I beg to present the report of the Select Committee appointed to consider the Travancore Hindu Religious Endowments Act (Amendment) Bill and move that the Bill as revised by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: I second it.

The question was put and declared carried.

Clause 1.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: Sir, I move that the word 'Hindu' be deleted from sub-clause (1) of Clause 1. I submit that it may appear to be quite ridiculous that I, a Hindu, should move such an amendment. I simply wanted to place before the House the disabilities of those who are called Hindus in that a portion of their religious institutions are in the hands of Government and others are in the hands of individuals and other organisations. The Christians as well as the Mohammedans are enjoying certain privileges so far as their religious institutions are concerned. The great Magna Carta of India gives privileges to all communities and directs the Governments not to interfere in religious matters. Being a Hindu State, our Sovereign being a Hindu Sovereign, we the Hindu public are under certain disabilities and we are not even in a position to submit our grievances so far as our religious institutions are concerned. Sir, our religious institutions, though managed by Government, are having a step-motherly treatment. So far as the Christian community is concerned, there is the Catholic Section and the Protestant Section. They are being centred in particular places from where they can get directions; and they have got funds, they have got schools of their own and they have got ever-so many other privileges. Sir, in regard to the Hindus, a portion of their religious institutions were taken by Government by an executive order in 987 M. E. and in the capacity of a trustee, the Government are managing them. Later, the Legislature interfered and made certain other institutions come under Government. After 1079, amendments have been introduced with the result that the liberty of the Hindu public has been encroached upon. Here is a Bill which depends upon the nature of the executive for it to be detrimental or beneficial. Sir, I brought the very same question before the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly some 15 or 20 years ago. Then our learned President was a member of the Bar in Madras. The late Sri Mulam Thirunal got expert opinion from him, and as a result of it, we got a Proclamation that it was something like a trust. I would say that after 987 M. E., till 1912 A. D., that is, just at the time of Ramachandra Rao's report, Government were appropriating.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have a recollection that I gave advice to this Government at that time. But I never remember having given that opinion which the member attributes to me.

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MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: I am afraid my learned friend is wandering away from the point. His motion is not relevant. It is to omit the word 'Hindu' from the preamble and from Section 1 sub section 1 and all other sections.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: It is not to our advantage everything is going to be adopted. Suppose a house is purchased for Rs. 30, Rs. 10 advanced by A and Rs. 20 by B. Suppose the.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. In so far as the honourable member is going into the old Devaswom Proclamation according to which certain properties and the management of certain properties were dealt with, that is beside the point at the moment. In so far as the honourable member wants to extend the scope of this Bill by deleting the word 'Hindu' and amending clause 1 accordingly, I do not see any reason why all these things should be discussed. Moreover, how does the member achieve his object by merely omitting the word 'Hindu'? I can understand the honourable member saying there should be an amendment appurtenant to the attainment of his object. Merely omitting the word 'Hindu' from the top of the Bill does not take us anywhere.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: Sir, in my amendment I have just submitted a request that there should be another Bill for the consideration of this House. Now what I have to submit is this. There is another argument wherein the provision of the Charitable Endowments Act has been encroached. I say it should be done only for Hindus.

So I submit there are no special favours by Government handling these institutions. We are all under the Government. The funds are met out of the Sirkar tax paid on properties. The expenditure of such things we have to discuss in this Assembly. We give Kanikkas, the expenditure of which we do not get the advantage of discussing.

So what I submit is that unless there is such central organisation—and local organisations—there cannot be any holding together all the different communities.

PRESIDENT: I suppose the honourable member is referring to the Hindu Charitable Endowments Committee of Madras. Is that what you refer to?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: Some such committee as that. I submit that Government be pleased to enquire into this question and when they have got a committee it can be entrusted with the work. So what I submit is that another Committee be appointed and the officer be directed to see that the whole institution is well managed. Rules on the lines I have suggested may be drafted and brought into operation

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: I believe my friend had been dealing with the 'Travancore Hindu Religious Endowments Act (Amendments) Bill. What is clause 1, sub-clause (i)? This clause is "This Act may be called the Hindu Religious Endowments (Amendment) Act." We have a Hindu Religious Endowments Act and I say

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[Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai.]

this Act should be called "The Hindu Religious Endowments Amendment Act." My friend says I should drop the word Hindu. What happens then? Nothing remains.

The amendment was put to vote and declared lost.

The question that clause 1 stand Part of the Bill was put to vote and declared carried. Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The question that clauses 2, 3 and 4 stand part of the Bill was put and declared carried. The clauses 2, 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5.

The following amendment was not moved :

In clause 5, lines 13 and 14, substitute the words "beneficial to the Hindus" for the words "not inconsistent with the objects of such endowment."

The question that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill was then put and carried. The clause was added to the Bill.

Preamble.

PRESIDENT : Mr. K. G. Govindan has got an amendment.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Sir, we have not got notice of the amendment. It is an 11th hour motion.

PRESIDENT : It is in my papers.

MR. PUTHUPALLY S. KRISHNA PILLAI : But I am entitled to object for want of notice. If the amendment was given to the Secretary sufficiently early, it would have been printed and circulated to the members.

PRESIDENT : Apart from that I would appeal to the honourable member not to move it for this reason. Till now matters appurtenant to Hindu religious institutions were dealt with in a special manner in this State, and the sovereign being a Hindu makes a great deal of difference. If the Dewan, who is only an administrator of the endowments and does not interfere with the actual ceremonies, is not a Hindu, some senior officer who is a Hindu does the work. That is the convention.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN : I do not move the amendment.

The question that the Preamble and the Title stand part of the Bill was then put and declared carried.

The Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Sir, I move that in Clause 1 (i), for the figure "111—", the figure "1116" be inserted.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : Sir, I second the motion.

The motion was carried.

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MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: I move that the Hindu Religious Endowments Act (Amendment) Bill be passed.

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN: I second it.

The motion was declared carried and the Bill was passed.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: The last item on the agenda is the consideration of the Payment of Wages Bill as revised by the Select Committee. Several amendments have been given notice of, of course, in time. But these came to me only yesterday and it was not possible to study them all. If honourable members have no objection, this Bill may be taken up tomorrow.

The suggestion was accepted.

PRESIDENT: Are you now ready with the other Bill?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: That amendment has been sent to the Press for printing. This may also be taken up tomorrow.

PRESIDENT: In other words you want the House to rise now?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: If the House agrees to it.

PRESIDENT: Does it suit the convenience of the honourable members that the Payment of Wages Bill and the Provident Funds Bill be taken up tomorrow?

The suggestion was agreed to by the House and the House adjourned at 4-5 P. M.

A. GUNAMONY,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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